What is claimed is:

- 1. A USB unit control method, wherein, when coupling a plurality of USB units including a dual-role device acting as a USB device or a USB host via a hub, said method determines the function of said dual-role device assumed when it is connected, and switches said dual-role device between a USB device and a USB host.
- 2. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a dual-role device acting as a USB host is connected to a hub where a USB host is connected, said method makes a switchover of said dual-role device from a USB host to a USB device, and reports said switchover to said USB host.
- 3. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case all dual-role devices connected to a hub act as USB devices, said method detects the Session Request Protocol from said dual-role devices and switches the dual-role device which has started the Session Request Protocol to a USB host.
- 4. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a USB host is connected to a hub via a four-wire USB cable, said method makes a switchover of all dual-role devices connected to said hub to USB devices, and reports said switchover to said USB host.

- 5. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein, in case a USB device is connected via a four-wire USB cable to a hub where a USB host is connected, said method reports connection of said USB device to said USB host.
- 6. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein said method determines the function of said dual-role device assumed when it is connected based on the state of a port where a USB unit is connected or change in the state of D+ or D- of a USB data line, and makes a switchover of said dual-role device between a USB device and a USB host.
- 7. A USB unit control method according to claim 1, wherein said method detects a specific request from a USB host connected to a hub and makes a switchover of a plurality of dual-role devices between a USB device and a USB host.
- 8. A USB unit controller, wherein said USB unit controller executes a USB unit control method according to any one of claims 1 through 7.
- 9. A USB unit controller according to claim 8, wherein said USB unit controller comprises

a hub for coupling a plurality of USB devices including a dual-role device acting as a USB device or a USB host,

device control means for determining the function of said dual-role device assumed when it is connected, and

bus management means for making a switchover of a dual-role device connected to said hub between a USB device and a USB host.

- 10. A USB unit controller according to claim 9, wherein said device control means comprises a function for performing communications between a USB host and a USB device, a function for performing data communications, and a function for detecting and starting the Session Request Protocol and executing the Host Negotiation Protocol.
- 11. A USB unit controller according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said USB unit controller comprises at least one receptacle for a USB cable defined in the OTG Supplementary Specifications and functions as a USB hub.
- 12. A program wherein said program is a program for executing a USB unit control method described in any one of claims 1 through 7.
- 13. A semiconductor integrated circuit wherein said semiconductor integrated circuit comprises a program according to claim 12 and a USB unit controller according to any one of

claims 8 through 11.